Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Arizona

- At the secondary level, CTE is delivered through comprehensive high schools, charter schools or through the 14 Career Technical Education Districts (CTEDs), which include over 215 high school sites. CTEDs are formed when two or more school districts, with the approval of local voters and the state Department of Education, come together to form a new district that can deliver a higher level of CTE to students it serves than the individual districts could provide on their own.
- At the postsecondary level, CTE is delivered through 10 community college districts. Each community college district is fully autonomous with its own governing board and is funded individually by the state and with Perkins funds.

In school year 2017-2018, 107,496 high school students and 110,000 postsecondary students participated in CTE in Arizona.

In Fiscal Year 2020, Arizona received an estimated $30,788,834 in federal Perkins funding—about $501,330 more than in Fiscal Year 2019.

CTE Highlights in Arizona

- The Basha High School (BHS) Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program is dedicated to preparing students for success in early childhood careers. Led by Melanie Alexander, ACTEAZ 2018 CTE Teacher of the Year, students have the opportunity for real-world simulations and experiences through the RealCare baby project, an on-campus childcare center, local elementary schools and the Basha Public Library. Each student can also complete the requirements for the Child Development Associate (CDA), a national industry-recognized credential. The program includes dual enrollment opportunities through Chandler Gilbert Community College, and leadership opportunities through the BHS FCCLA chapter. This past year, 12 students qualified for FCCLA Nationals, where three earned gold medals and seven earned silver medals. In addition, one student was elected state officer of the Arizona FCCLA State Executive Council. The FCCLA chapter was also 1 of 33 schools from across the country that has earned the Lead4Change Certified School honor in recognition for its inspiring community service work and demonstration of leadership.
- The Flagstaff High School Culinary Arts program serves approximately 450 students each school year. Students receive their Food Handler card in Culinary I and Food Manager card in Culinary 2, with the option of earning a ServSafe certification in their senior year. Students can choose among culinary, baking and pastry coursework as well as learn barista skills. The program provides scholarship dollars for students that declare culinary/hospitality as their chosen career path. Participation is possible in C-CAP, ProStart and FCCLA. The program offers dual enrollment to Coconino Community College and partners with The School of Hotel and Restaurant Management at Northern Arizona University. Owing to vested community partners, most students in their senior year get jobs in the community. Patti Pastor was the 2019 Arizona Educator of Excellence representing Arizona and leads the FHS Culinary Program.

Student Performance (2018)

- 97% of secondary CTE concentrators graduated.
- 83% of secondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.
- 82% of secondary CTE concentrators went on to postsecondary education, the workforce, the military or an apprenticeship.
- 88% of postsecondary CTE concentrators met performance goals for technical skills.

Labor Market Trends

- 52% of Arizona’s labor market consists of middle-skill jobs, but only 47% of the state’s workers are trained at the middle-skill level.
- The top 5 industries for “good jobs” that pay a median annual income of $55,000+ without a bachelor’s degree are management, office and administrative support, sales, construction and extraction, and installation/maintenance/repairs.

Data from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (Perkins IV)

Data from National Skills Coalition Middle-Skill Job Fact Sheets and the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce’s Good Jobs Project